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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNCDF ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
MALI

IPF: (1992-1996) $57 634 000
(MLI/86/C03) - Hydro-agricultural Infrastructure
in the Bourem-Foghas Plain

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	3 July 1991
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Rural Development
Proposed UNCDF budget:	$3 215 300
Source of funds:	General resources

Project background

The UNCDF intervention in the north of Mali, originated in 1983 during a period of serious drought and threat of famine, and evolved into a strategy to secure the sedentary populations by providing a technology which would compensate for the vagaries of weather that threatened (and continues to threaten) traditional agriculture along the Niger River. Traditional agriculture in the region has been based, for the most part, on the growing of "floating rice", a rice grown using land-extensive techniques and no inputs (fertilizers, credit etc.). Lack of rain has impeded the growing of this crop which requires humid soil to germinate prior to the flood season.

The present project, identified in 1986 by UNCDF PPIM mission, is part of the overall UNCDF programme in Northern Mali. It aims to prepare and equip the Bourem-Foghas plain for controlled flooding and mechanized irrigation. A socio-economic survey and prefeasibility study have been carried out with UNCDF financing. The Bourem-Foghas project whose objective is to give villagers a means to secure agricultural production by increased control on water management, will expand on the successful experience in the Gao and Tombouctou regions. It will also introduce important new components such as agriculture diversification within the PIV's (sorghum, wheat, vegetables, and aboriculture) and traditional floating rice.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to guarantee traditional floating rice production. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) dig out the Goucha and the canals feeding into the plains to be flooded (466 hectares); (b) build a protective dike around the plain; (c) construct upstream and downstream water control works and

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

gates that will result in a yearly production of 300 tons of floating rice as compared to the current production of 40 tons; (d) establish those irrigated perimeters (65 hectares): two for intensive double cropping rice production, one for fruits and vegetables resulting in a yearly production of 290 tons of irrigated rice, 105 tons of irrigated sorghum, 30 tons of cassava, 2 tons of niebe, 40 tons of vegetables and cereals; (e) protect the plain against wind and sand by wind-break plantation (5000 lm) and plantation of nine hectares of forest; (f) plant four hectares of palm trees with a yearly production of 60 tons of dates; (g) plant "bourgou", a forage crop (290 tons), to control erosion along the banks of the Goucha; (h) introduce eight pairs of draught animals for cultivation and improved techniques of animal feed production; (i) prepare of 1000 hectares of low lands for traditional floating; rice production to produce over 600 tons of traditional rice per year; (j) process paddy into rice; (k) provide revolving funds for agricultural inputs and a line of credit for the purchase of equipment such as small motorpumps, tools, etc.; and (l) establish functional literacy programme to strengthen peasant associations and provide training of their management committees to ensure proper fund administration and well construction and community infrastructures to improve socio-economic conditions of the villagers.

Inputs

UNCDF will finance the additional socio-economic and topographic studies to be carried out as well as the supervision of works. It will also bear the cost of land preparation (digging out of the Goucha, construction of the dike, watercontrol works and gates), and provide equipment (motorpumps) for the irrigated perimeters. UNCDF also will subcontract specialized organization (NGO) to implement the introduction of ox- drought cultivation, functional literacy programme, training and windbreak plantation components. It will also provide credit and revolving funds for the purchase of agricultural inputs and small processing equipment.

The Government will finance the national personnel (200 man-months) and the project office facilities in Bourem (US $77,000).

UNDP will finance the additional cost of two UNV's administrative support, and the cost of the technical assistance team operating under the ongoing UNDP/OPS project MLI/88/009: "Rice production in GAO and Tombouctou" (US $517,000).

WFP will provide food for work (US $50,000) to the villagers for windbreak installation and land preparation (digging of tertiary canals, land levelling etc.).

Financial data

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Consultancies (formulation, evaluation, supervision)	159 800
Subcontracts	105 200
Non-expendable equipment	147 400
Expendable equipment	10 000
Civil works	1 767 000
Transportation equipment	173 400
Revolving funds/credit	169 700
Contingencies and cost escalation	540 900
Agency overhead and programme support	141 900
Total	3 215 300

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